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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
2 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in Kashmir

(Report #1 - As of 6:00 am EDT)

The Kashmir conflict is moving into a new and more dangerous phase as Pakistan for the first time is openly and avowedly throwing in its regular forces.

Rawalpindi has announced the capture by Azad (Free) Kashmir forces, "backed by regular troops," of two Indian posts six to eight miles inside the Chhamb sector of Indian Kashmir, near the southern end of the cease-fire line. Pakistan's thrust, apparently in retaliation for India's incursion into the Uri-Poonch salient of Azad Kashmir, may be directed against the Jammu-Poonch road, India's supply line to its 25th Division in the Poonch area.

Aircraft were introduced into the Kashmir conflict for the first time yesterday as Indian aircraft attacked the Pakistani ground forces moving into the Chhamb sector. Pakistani aircraft engaged the Indian fighter-bombers, apparently on the Indian side of the line, and downed four. New Delhi admits the loss of the aircraft, but claims the Indians have knocked out 10 Patton tanks.

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In the Uri-Poonch salient

the Indians have secured a strategic mountain pass on the road from Uri to Poonch. The Indians are attempting to consolidate their positions there. Indian spokesmen report that a number of villages, presumably in the Uri-Poonch area of Azad Kashmir, are being brought under Indian civil administration.

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Leaders of both countries have issued statements underlining the seriousness of the stepped up confrontation. On 1 September Pakistan's President Ayub referred to recent Indian forays across the ceasefire line and declared that these acts "would not be allowed to go unchallenged." In New Delhi Prime Minister Shastri stated yesterday that "our entire military strategy will now have to be reviewed and the whole issue considered in a much wider context." A meeting of the Emergency Committee of the Indian cabinet was held yesterday, but there is as yet no word on the nature of any decisions taken.

From New York the UN Secretary General has issued an appeal to both countries to halt the current hostilities and abide by the 1949 ceasefire agreement. This would involve a withdrawal of forces behind the ceasefire line and an end to Pakistani sponsored infiltrations. It is unlikely that the appeal will have any significant impact on the course pursued by either side.

Elsewhere in the subcontinent two incidents are reported which, while possibly unrelated to the Kashmir conflict, could portend grave new elements in an already serious crisis. Rawalpindi charges that the Indians have opened fire across the India-East Pakistan Border at Lathitilla. While sniping by border forces in that area has been a frequent occurrence for years, during a period of heightened tension they are particularly dangerous. In western India, a communal riot--reportedly unrelated to the Kashmir issue--has resulted in the destruction of a number of mosques by Hindu mobs.

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